

The Ancient Mayas

Lapbook



Designed by
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L-AM



The Ancient Mayas Lapbook

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How do I get started?

First, you will want to gather your supplies. Depending on which format you purchased from us, you will need different supplies. So, take what applies, and skip over the rest.

*** Printing:

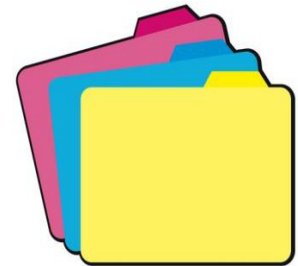
*Print instructions and study guide on white copy paper.

*Print the booklet templates on 24# colored paper.



*** Assembly:

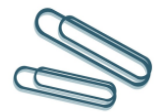
***Folders:** We use colored file folders, which can be found at Wal-Mart, Sam's, Office Depot, Costco, etc. You will need 3 file folders. You may use manila folders if you prefer, but we have found that children respond better with the brightly colored folders. Don't worry about the tabs... they aren't important. If you prefer, you can purchase the assembled lapbook bases from our website.



***Glue:** For booklet assembly, we use glue sticks and sometimes hot glue, depending on the specific booklet. We have found that bottle glue stays wet for too long, so it's not a great choice for lapbooking.



***Other Supplies:** Of course, you will need scissors. Many booklets require additional supplies. Some of these include metal brad fasteners, paper clips, ribbon, yarn, staples, hole puncher, etc. You may want to add decorations of your own, including stickers, but coloring pages, cut-out clipart, etc. The most important thing is to use your imagination! Make it your own!!



Ok. I've gathered the supplies. Now how do I use this product?

Inside, you will find several sections. They are as follows:

1. **Student Assembly and Completion Instructions:** This section is written directly to the student, in language that he or she can understand. However, depending on the age of the child, there may be some parent/teacher assistance needed. These instructions will tell the student exactly how to assemble the lapbook base and how to cut out and assemble each booklet. Here, they will find a layout of where each booklet should be placed in the lapbook and pictures of a completed lapbook. They will also tell the student exactly what should be written inside each booklet as he or she comes to it during the study.
2. **Booklet Templates:** This section includes all of the templates for the booklets within this lapbook.
3. **Study Guide:** This section includes most of the information that you need to teach this subject. You may choose to teach directly from the Study Guide, or you may choose to allow your student to read the study guide himself. Either way, you will find all of the information here.



The Ancient Mayas Lapbook

Student Instruction Guide

Lapbook Base Assembly:

First, you will need to assemble the “Lapbook Base” for your project.

For this lapbook, you will need 3 file folders. Open the file folder, and lay it flat in front of you. Fold both sides of each folder toward the middle. The edges (or tabs) of the folded sides should touch the center original fold line on the folders. See **Figure 1**. **Figure 2** shows how all 3 folders should be assembled.

Figure 1

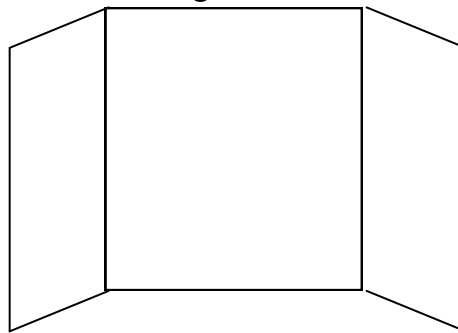
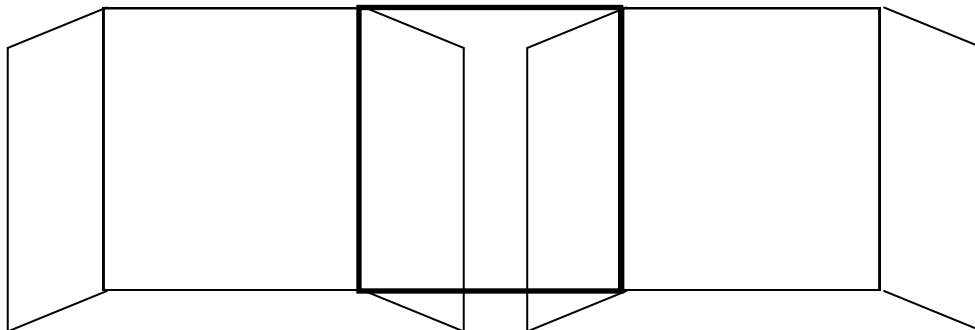
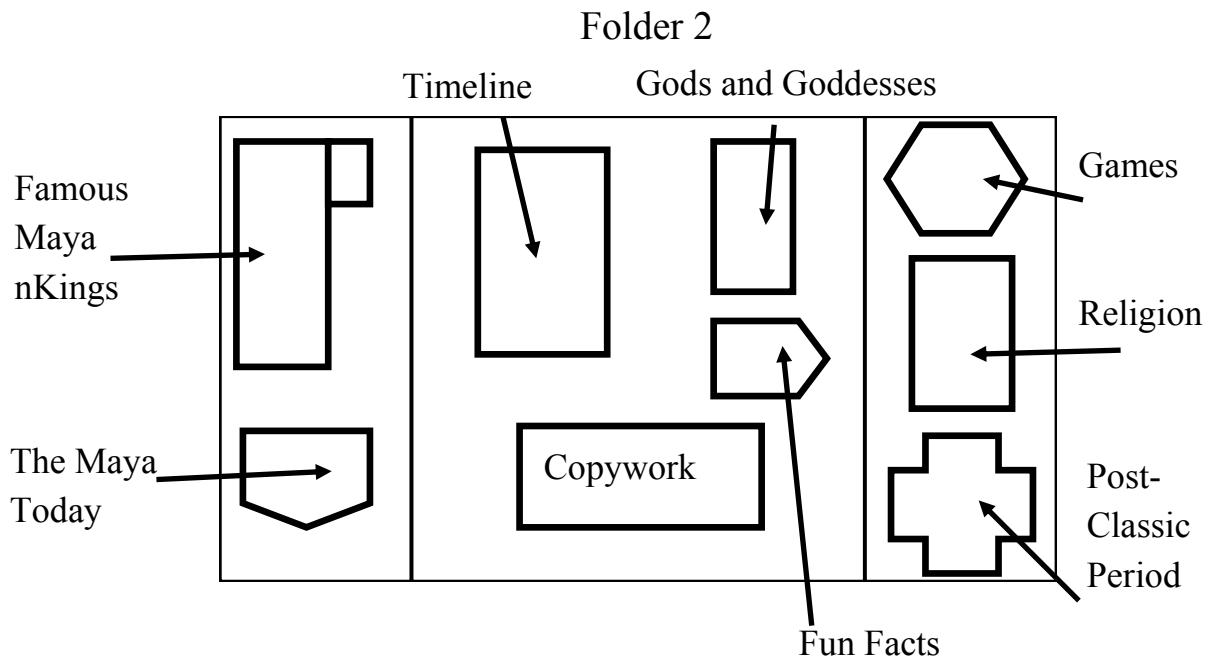
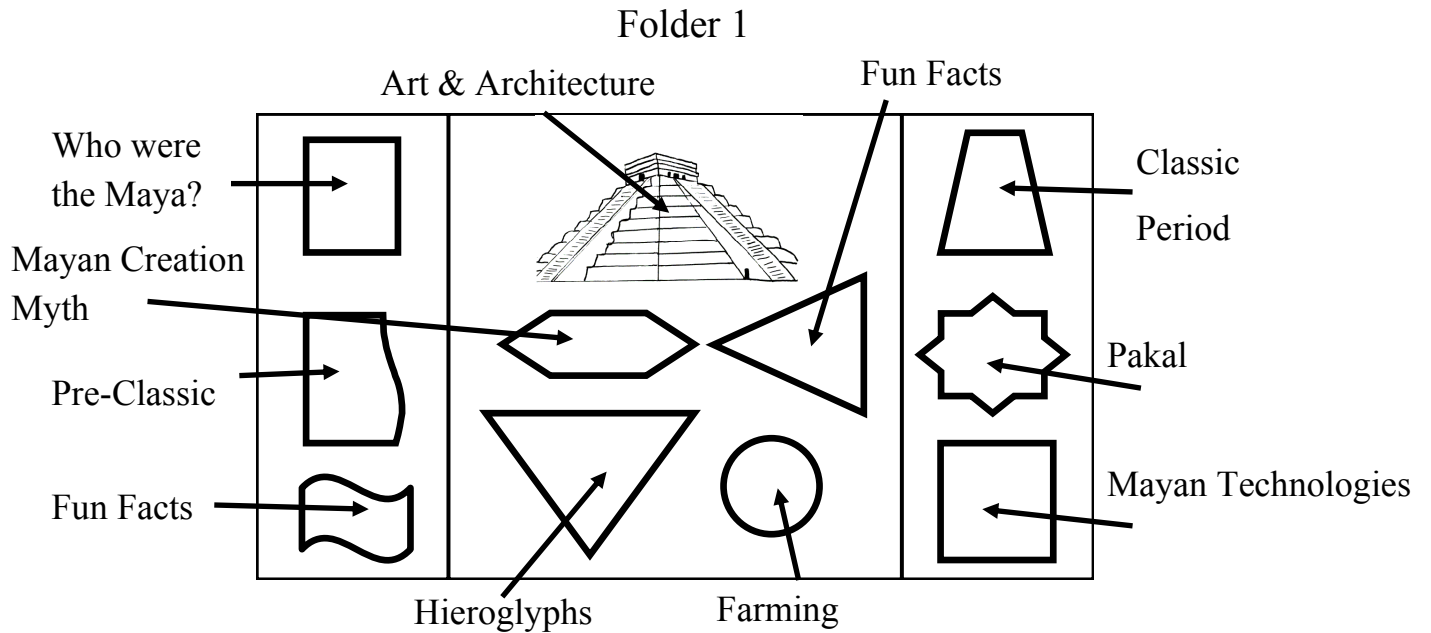


Figure 2

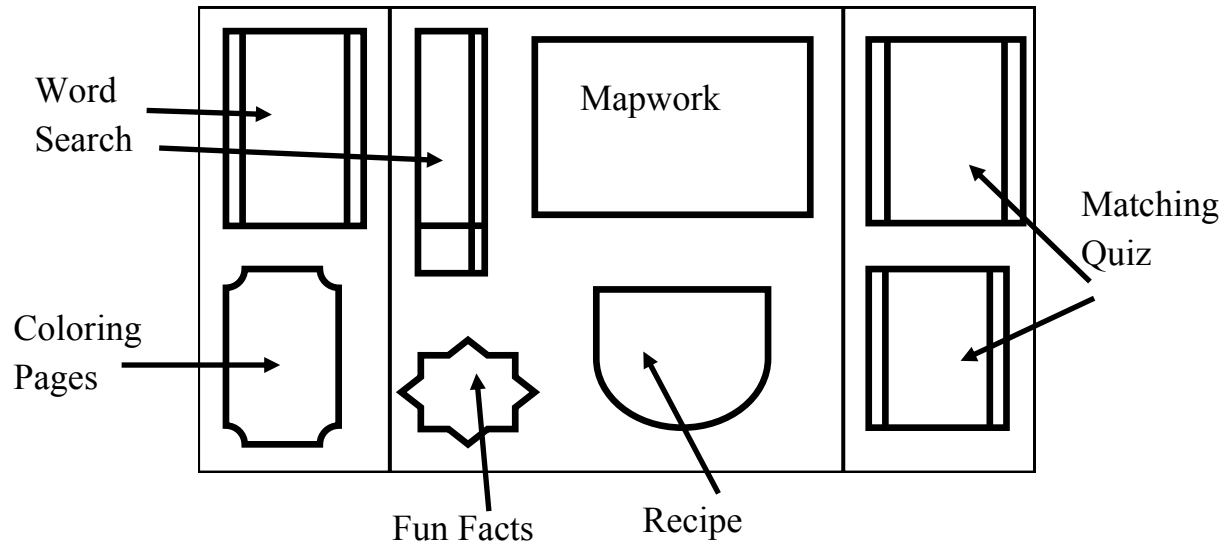


Lapbook Layout:

Below, you will see a layout for the lapbook. You may choose to glue the booklets into your Lapbook Base in any order that you like. However, you may have trouble fitting all of them in unless you follow the layout below. Some of the shapes aren't exactly the same on the layout as the booklets themselves.



Folder 3

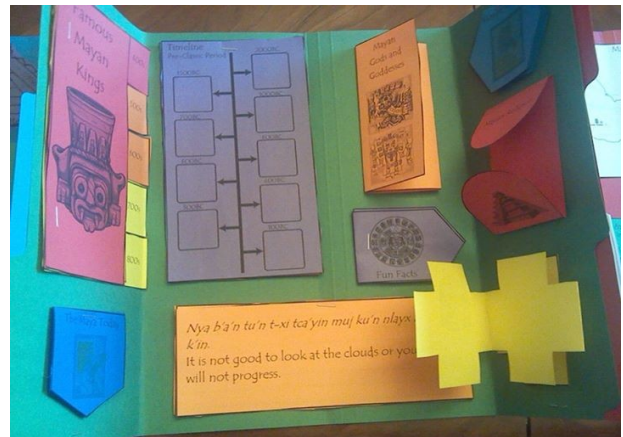


Below, you will find pictures of how the lapbook should look when you have completely assembled it.

Folder 1



Folder 2



Folder 3



All Folders



The Ancient Mayas Lapbook

Student Instruction Guide

Booklet #1

***Booklet Title:** Who were the Mayas?

***Student Instructions:** Who were the Mayas and what were they known for? What three periods is Mayan history divided into? Discuss your answers in this booklet.

****Assembly Instructions:** Cut out along the outer black line edges of the booklet. Fold flaps in towards the center section. Make sure title flap folds in on top. Information is to be written on the inside center section. Attach in appropriate place in folder.

Booklet #2

***Booklet Title:** The Pre-Classic Period

***Student Instructions:** When did this period of Mayan history begin? What writing system was developed during this period? Discuss your answers in this booklet.

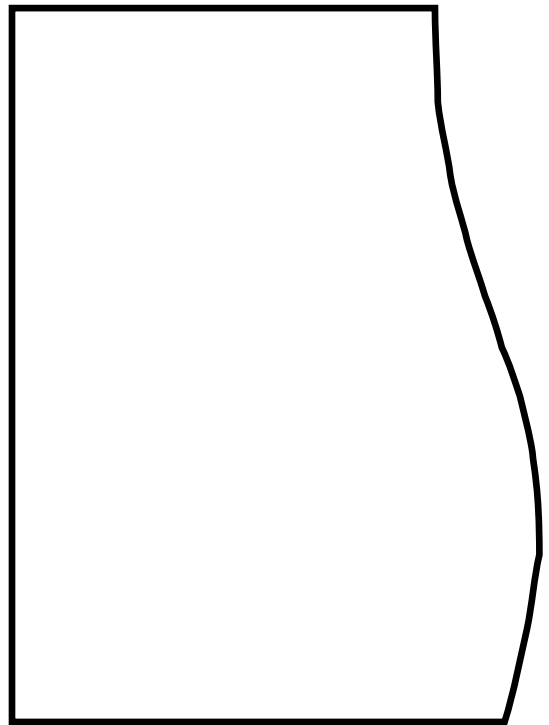
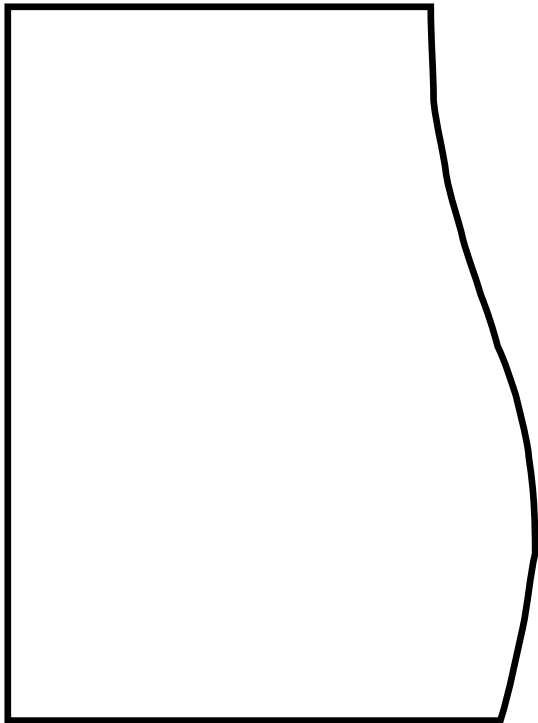
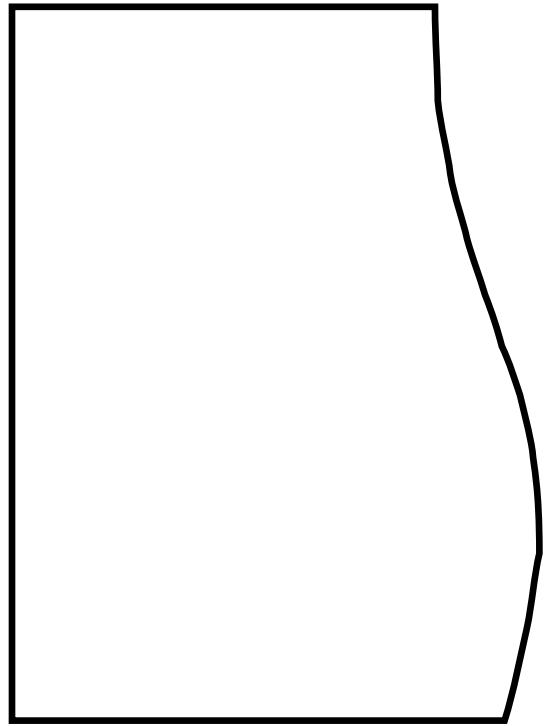
****Assembly Instructions:** Cut out along the outer black line edges of all four pages. Stack with the title page on top, and secure with a staple at the top of the stack.

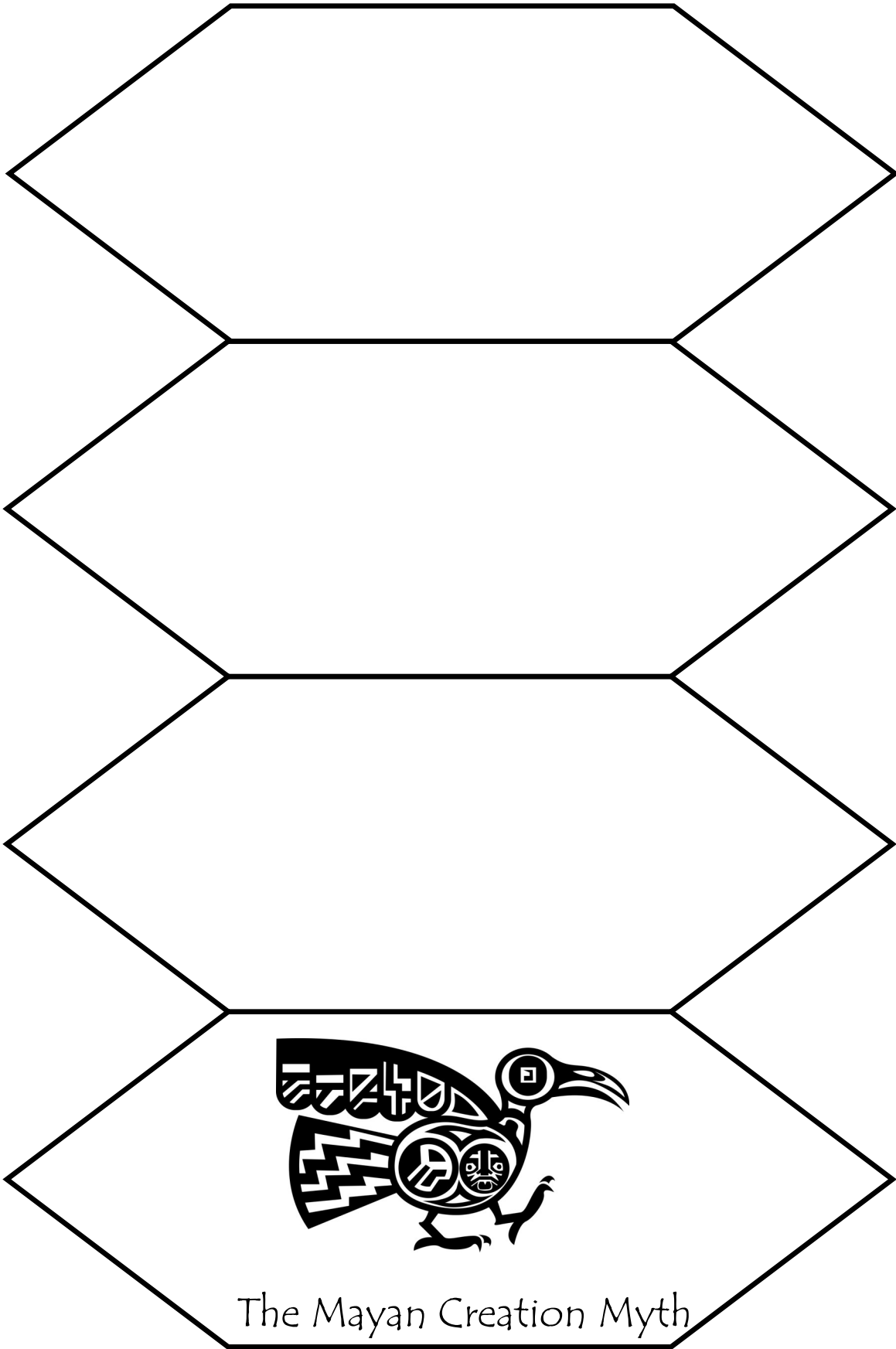


Who Were the Mayas?



The Pre-Classic
Period





The Ancient Mayas



The Maya were a Central American civilization known for their art, architecture, mathematics, astronomical systems and system of writing. This system of writing, in fact, is the only known fully developed written language in Pre-Columbian America. Maya history is divided into three periods: the Pre-classic (from 2000BC to 250AD); the Classic (from 250 AD to 900AD, the high point of Maya history); and the Post-classic, which lasted until the arrival of the Spanish. At their peak, the Maya controlled land in Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and much of Mexico. The Maya were known for their elaborate ceremonial architecture. They were also skilled weavers and potters and cleared routes through the jungles and swamps as an extensive road network for trade.

The Pre-Classic Period

The Mayan calendar begins with a date equivalent to August 11, 3114 BC. Most of the early Maya settlements discovered, however, point to a beginning date around 1800 BC. At this time the Maya established settled communities and made fine clay pottery and figurines. Mayan cities controlled trade in surrounding areas. Goods traded included jade and obsidian. The first written inscription in Mayan hieroglyphics dates to about 250 BC. Around 100 AD, a widespread decline and abandonment of Maya cities occurred. This was the end of the Pre-classic era.

The Mayan Creation Myth

The Mayans believed in two creator gods, Gucumatz and Tepeu. These gods decided to create earth out of the ocean that covered the planet at the time. Once they had created the earth, they populated it with animals. Soon they realized, however, since the animals could not talk, they could not worship the gods. The gods then decided to create humans and use the animals as food for the humans.

The first humans were made out of mud, but they were weak and melted in the rain. The next people were made out of wood, but they soon forgot the gods and were punished with a flood. Any who survived were turned into monkeys. Finally, the gods decided to make man out of corn. Thus in our present state we can worship and nourish the gods.



The Classic Period

This was the peak period of Mayan civilization. There was large scale construction and monument building. The civilization was largely urban at this time. They Mayans built a largely agricultural yet city-oriented society consisting of city-states. Some of the most well-known include Caracul, Tikal, Palenque, Copan, Xunautunich and Calakmul.

During this period the Mayan population was numbered in the millions. They created numerous small kingdoms and empires and built monumental palaces and temples. They held highly developed religious ceremonies and developed elaborate hieroglyphs. Carved stone slabs known as stelae depict images of Maya rulers along with their genealogy, military victories and other accomplishments. Important trade goods during this period include cacao, salt, seashells, jade and obsidian.

The Maya of this period went into a sharp decline during the 8th and 9th centuries. A two hundred year drought may have led to this collapse. Scientists suggest that the Maya may have turned too much of their forest into cropland, leading to a lower rainfall.

Each Mayan kingdom was ruled by a hereditary king known as an *ajaw*. This king was not only the focus of power but also responsible for upholding aesthetic and moral values. There also were viewed as mediators between the gods and the people on earth, and performed elaborate religious ceremonies that were so important to the Maya.

Anthropologists once believed the Maya to be a more peaceful people than the ancient Aztecs. However, later discoveries of Mayan art show the importance of blood and even human sacrifice. The king's blood sacrifice was the most valuable, so took place more frequently. Captives were more often sacrificed to the gods.

